

Clean Version of Claims

1. A bandage shaped to conform substantially to the whole of a lower leg of a patient, comprising a first absorbent layer for arrangement adjacent the skin of a patient, and a second absorbent layer on the first absorbent layer, the second absorbent layer having a greater propensity for absorption of fluids than the first absorbent layer, whereby when the bandage is arranged over a wound of a patient, the first absorbent layer can absorb fluid from the wound and the second absorbent layer can absorb said fluid from the first absorbent layer.

2. A bandage according to claim 1 further including a third layer on the second absorbent layer on the opposite side thereof to the first absorbent layer.

3. A bandage according to claim 2 wherein the third layer is an absorbent layer and has a lower propensity for absorption than the second layer.

4. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 2 wherein the third layer is permeable to vapour, thereby allowing the skin to breathe.

5. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 2 wherein the third layer has substantially the same absorbency as, or less absorbency than, the first absorbent layer.

6. A bandage according to claim 5 wherein the third layer is formed of the same material as the first absorbent layer.

7. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 2 wherein the third layer is substantially impermeable to liquid but permeable to vapour.

8. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 1, wherein the bandage is shaped to conform to the whole of the lower leg and a foot of the patient.

9. A bandage according to claim 8 including a first part shaped to conform to the whole of the lower leg of the patient and a second part shaped to conform to the foot of the patient.

10. A bandage according to claim 9 wherein the bandage has stitching along the region thereof conforming to the calf region of the leg, and stitching along the region conforming to the heel region of the foot.

11. A bandage according to claim 10 further including stitching in a region conforming to the toe region of the foot.

12. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 1 wherein the bandage has opposite side edges wherein the side edges can be overlapped to a desired degree to fit the bandage to the patient's lower leg.

13. A bandage according to claim 12 wherein securing means are provided to secure the edge regions together.

14. A bandage according to claim 13 wherein the securing means is in the form of an adhesive tape.

15. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 12 wherein suitable tabs and/or flaps are provided to ensure appropriate overlap.

16. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 1 wherein the first absorbent layer includes a polyester viscose material.

17. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 1 wherein the second absorbent layer includes a polyester felt, suitably an hydrophilic polyester felt.

18. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 1 wherein the second absorbent layer includes cotton wool.

19. A bandage according to claim 2 wherein the third layer comprises a polyester viscose material.

20. (Amended) A bandage system comprising a first bandage according to claim 1 and a second bandage being a compression bandage, the second bandage comprising a sheet of elastic material and means for releasable maintaining the sheet of elastic material in a stretched condition around the patient's lower leg.

21. A bandage system according to claim 20 wherein the second bandage is formed from a rubber or rubber-like material.

22. A bandage system according to claim 21 wherein the second bandage is formed from a synthetic rubber, for example neoprene.

23. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 20 wherein the means for maintaining the material around the patient's lower leg includes an outer attachment associated with a side edge region of the sheet, the outer attachment comprising a plurality of tabs provided along substantially the length of said side edge.

24. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 23 wherein the tabs are so provided along the length of said side edge that there are substantially no gaps between adjacent tabs when the bandage is correctly applied to the patient's lower leg.

25. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 23 wherein one part of a hook and fleece fastening means is provided on an inner face of each tab and the other of said hook and fleece fastenings is provided on the sheet.

26. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 25 wherein each tab is stretchable whereby when the second bandage is applied to the lower leg of a patient, the degree of stretch of the sheet material and of the tabs determines the pressure applied to the lower leg at the respective tab.

27. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 20 wherein the second bandage includes visual indication means to indicate whether the correct pressure is applied to the lower leg by the bandage.

28. A bandage system according to claim 27 wherein the visual indication means comprises a shape applied to at least some of the tabs to indicate that the correct pressure is applied when the shape alters in a recognisable way.